

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 24-30 are now pending in the present invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 29, and 30 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Bierjon et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,196,624). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to define a pair of beam-like brackets extending transversely across the vehicle and also extending vertically to directly support opposite sides of the heat exchanger, and the beam-like brackets act as a reinforcing member.

Bierjon et al. shows lateral parts 14; however, the lateral parts 14 are assembled with a heat exchanger 16 through a central frame 12. Claim 1 defines the beam-like brackets as extended vertically to directly support opposite sides of the heat exchanger. In a telephone discussion with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that an amendment to the claims with these limitations would place the claim in condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 24-27, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claim 29, it has been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1 and is, thus, also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bierjon et al.* in view of *Iwasaki et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,046,554). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been amended to define a pair of beam-like brackets mounted directly on the header tanks. As stated above, *Bierjon et al.* discloses later parts 14; however, the lateral parts 14 are assembled to a heat exchanger 16 through a central frame 12. The lateral parts 14 are not mounted directly to the header tanks. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 3, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 28, which ultimately depend from Claim 3, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. This Amendment was also discussed with the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone discussion.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended similar to Claim 3, to define that a pair of beam-like brackets are directly coupled to or integrated with the first header tanks. Thus, Claim 4, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22, which ultimately depend from Claim 4, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. This Amendment was also discussed with the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone discussion.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 20, rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is now pending in the present application.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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